

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES COMMITTEE ON
HUNGARIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

Meeting: Montreal, January 31st, 1957 at 2:30 p.m.

Present: Rev. M. Beauchamp, O.M.I., Chairman, Messrs. Matthews, Evans, Blanchard, Perinbam of W.U.S.C. (associate member), of the Committee, Mr. Lefaive of the Federal Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Rev. Dr. Knowles of McGill University and Mrs. Smith, co-ordinator.

The Chairman first reports on the information received from some 17 University Presidents, in reply to the questionnaire on facilities available. Thus far, approximately 230 places are available, while offers for financial support amount roughly to 125, most of these offers having been made to W.U.S.C. Mr. Evans expresses his concern on this matter. He is afraid that the Committee receives from the students more applications than can be provided for. He suggests that we enquire from the Department of Immigration about the assistance the Federal Government is prepared to give in this respect.

Dr. Knowles points out that the Committee is faced with a twofold problem, i.e. acceptance of the students and their support while in Montreal and once they have been transported to university centres. Mr. Lefaive states then that the Government can warrant temporary and permanent employment alike.

Dr. Matthews stresses that the students being anxious to learn French or English and to start working, we have to organize language courses as quickly as possible. We must also make them feel that their stay in Montreal will not be unduly prolonged and that they will be sent pretty soon to university centres.

The implementation of the co-operation between our Committee and W.U.S.C. agreed upon at the previous meeting is now considered. Mr. Perinbam will set up an integration procedure to be submitted in the near future. In his opinion, the pattern must be such that all offers of assistance extended by the universities should be handled by the N.C.C.U. Committee. The same brings up to the cognizance of the Committee that from information he has received from Mr. Shohet, President of the Students' Society of McGill University, it appears that Hungarian students have been promised by Mr. Cox of the Canadian Embassy in Vienna, full scholarship to Canadian universities. Fr. Beauchamp will enquire about the matter from the Government officials in Ottawa.

Mr. Blanchard advises that Mr. Jean-Guy Décarie has accepted to act as co-ordinator with Mrs. Smith, at the salary of \$500.00 per month. He states also that a bilingual secretary has been found. It is agreed that this person be paid \$240.00 per month. Mr. Evans moves that Mrs. Smith be appointed Director and Mr. Décarie, Associate-Director.
Carried.

It is moved by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Perinbam that the language teachers from the International Rescue Committee be remunerated for their services. The motion is carried. However, the amount of the remuneration is not set.

Finally, all agree on Mr. Perinbam's suggestion to the effect that the official letter-head of the Committee stationery should mention the association with W.U.S.C.

The meeting adjourns at 5:45 p.m.